

Part 8

Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO, established in 1945 in Rome, is one of the oldest and largest of the UN specialized agencies. It is the chief international center for data and expertise in the fields of agriculture (including plant and animal genetic resources), fisheries, forestry and food-related issues, and the only source of comprehensive data for all agricultural commodities, forestry and fishery products and related ecosystems.

FAO was established to promote enhanced food security—through improved nutrition and expanded production and distribution of food and agricultural products—and to improve the lives of rural populations. Its in-depth institutional knowledge of farming and natural resources and its response capability in pest control emergencies are key assets for U.S. agricultural, economic and humanitarian interests.

FAO develops international standards (e.g., trade standardization programs, Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention) and promotes measures to ensure food safety and safe agricultural chemical use; sponsors international consultation and dialogue on agricultural development and food policy; and provides technical assistance and training for developing countries to advance sustainable agriculture and enhanced food production. Through training and field programs, FAO also combats pests and diseases, disseminates techniques for more effective food production and storage, and promotes environmentally sound agricultural practices.

FAO's highest policy-making body, the biennial Conference, is composed of all 175 FAO member states plus the European Community, which is a member organization. The Conference approves FAO's program and policy objectives, and adopts its program of work and budget. Senegal's Jacques Diouf, elected Director General in 1993, will serve through December 1999. The 49-member Council, elected by the Conference, serves as the interim governing body.

FAO derives its operating funds from its regular program budget, funded through the assessed contributions of its members, and from extrabudgetary activities carried out with other international organizations and financial institutions and bilateral trust fund donors. FAO's regular

program of work and budget operates on a biennial cycle and is approved by the FAO Conference. Regular program support results from assessed contributions, based on the UN assessment scale. At 25 percent, the United States was assessed \$80,975,000 for calendar year 1997 (FY 1998).

The United States and other major contributors continue to encourage FAO to be more active in the system-wide UN reform process and more transparent in its decision-making. The United States also continues to seek additional reforms within the organization to improve governance and to further streamline its activities.

Development of the 1998–1999 program of work and budget dominated FAO deliberations during 1997. The meetings of the Committees on Commodity Problems, Forestry, Fisheries and Agriculture all provided input to the budget process. The United States participated actively in all Committee meetings and made clear its concerns on programmatic priorities and the budget level. The FAO Conference met in November 1997 and adopted a no-growth budget of \$650 million for 1998–1999. In addition, the Conference approved revisions to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that will enhance the ability of that convention to set plant quarantine standards. FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the body charged with monitoring follow-up to the 1996 World Food Summit, met in April 1997 to establish guidelines for carrying out its monitoring functions. The United States was a leader in demonstrating progress in Food Summit follow-up and in encouraging other countries to take seriously commitments made at the Summit.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

IAEA member states total 127. The 35-member Board of Governors, responsible for providing overall direction and guidance with respect to the Agency's policies and program implementation, met in March, June, September and December. The General Conference, which consists of all members and carries out general oversight of the Agency's work, held its annual meeting in September. In 1997, of the 659 filled posts at IAEA which were subject to geographic distribution, 105 were held by Americans, constituting 15.9 percent. Mohamed El-Baradei (Egypt), former head of External Relations, assumed office December 1, 1997, as the Agency's fourth Director General.

The highlight of the year in the safeguards field was approval by the Board of a Model Protocol Additional to Safeguards Agreements on May 15. Concluded protocols with individual states will significantly enhance the Agency's ability to detect undeclared nuclear activities. By year-end 1997, seven states had concluded the new protocol; one had entered into force (Australia), while two others (Armenia and Georgia) will implement

it provisionally pending entry into force. The Board also approved new conventional safeguards agreements with three states (Bahamas, Georgia and Guyana). A total of seven safeguards agreements entered into force in seven states in 1997 (Algeria, Bahamas, Belize, Czech Republic, Estonia, Guyana and Slovenia). The IAEA performed approximately 2,500 on-site inspections at 602 facilities and other locations in 68 states throughout the year.

Important work continued on nuclear safety projects to upgrade regulatory and legislative infrastructure in the former Soviet Union and Eastern European states. Safety issues were identified in aging VVER (Russian water cooled and moderated reactor, used for the production of electricity) and RBMK (Russian high-powered, channel-type production reactor, used to produce plutonium) reactors. Procedures were established for registration and control of radioactive resources in developing countries; concurrently, a series of standards were put into place for nuclear, radiation, waste and transportation safety. With strong U.S. backing, two new international conventions were successfully concluded and opened for signature in September 1997: Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

The U.S. regular assessment is approximately 25 percent of the IAEA's total resources from assessments and amounted to approximately \$58 million in 1997. The United States also remained the largest single contributor of voluntary support to the IAEA. The U.S. extrabudgetary contribution of \$36 million went to support the following: Technical Cooperation Fund; U.S. program of technical assistance to safeguards; cost-free experts; in-country technical projects; U.S.-hosted training courses and fellowships; efforts to improve physical security of nuclear material; nuclear safety projects; and application of safeguards to excess defense material in the United States.

In addition to its routine inspection activities, the IAEA also carried out important nonproliferation functions in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iraq in 1997. On the basis of a decision by the Board of Governors following a request by the UN Security Council in 1994, the IAEA maintained continuous inspections in the Yongbyon area in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in order to monitor the freeze on the country's graphite moderated reactors and related facilities. The IAEA also implemented in Iraq the mandate assigned to it by resolutions of the UN Security Council. As of August 31, IAEA inspectors had conducted 400 monitoring inspections at some 130 locations in Iraq, 43 of which were inspected for the first time. No indication of prohibited activities, equipment, or material was detected during these inspections.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

ICAO, established in 1944 and a UN specialized agency since 1947, fosters the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation. ICAO sets international standards and recommended practices for civil aviation, thus ensuring its safety and security worldwide, and provides technical expertise for countries in matters of air safety and security. In 1997 the membership of ICAO was 185 states. Of the 281 professional staff of ICAO, 12 were U.S. citizens.

In 1997 ICAO began a groundbreaking initiative to make the current, voluntary Safety Oversight Program more assertive and effective. In November 1997 a worldwide meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation was held to consider proposals to strengthen and improve the program. The meeting recommended the introduction of regular, mandatory and systematic safety assessments/audits of all member states. It also recommended that transparency in the disclosure of safety assessment reports be ensured.

The U.S. Government provided financial and in-kind resources for the Safety Oversight and Aviation Security Programs of ICAO. During the year, ICAO carried out an additional 25 safety oversight assessments for a program total of 57. These assessments identify areas where member states need assistance in meeting their ICAO obligations for providing safety oversight of commercial air transport operations.

During 1997 ICAO continued to work toward the implementation of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), an advanced satellite air navigation system using the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) for the use of civil aviation. Through the ICAO Committee on Aviation and Environmental Protection, ICAO also continued its work on measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from aviation.

The United States proposed during 1997 to modernize the Warsaw Convention, which concerns just compensation for passenger victims of air disasters and other accidents. The Legal Committee examined the issue and agreed to continue its work during 1998 through a study group.

ICAO continued to take measures to become more efficient and responsive to the rapid changes in international civil aviation. Among other things, ICAO enacted procedures to streamline the development of its international standards, and strengthened internal oversight to provide greater transparency and accountability in ICAO programs.

ICAO's budget for 1997 was \$46.5 million, of which the U.S. share, at 25 percent, was \$11.6 million. This amount was paid in December 1997. The United States also was assessed \$570 thousand for its share of costs of

the ICAO Joint Financing Program. The total U.S. payment in 1997 to ICAO was \$12.67 million.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

IFAD has a mandate unique among multilateral lending institutions in that it focuses exclusively on increasing food production, improving living conditions and enhancing rural incomes in developing countries through loans and grants for projects specifically benefiting the rural poor. In 1997 IFAD's total commitments of \$419 million included 29 loans (\$389 million) and 102 grants (\$30 million), thus bringing its total commitments since beginning operations in 1978 to \$6.1 billion. IFAD's membership of 159 countries consists of List A (OECD, 22 countries), List B (OPEC, 12 countries) and List C (developing countries, 125 countries).¹ IFAD's current President, Fawzi Al-Sultan (Kuwait) was elected to a second 4-year term in February 1997. IFAD Headquarters are in Rome.

In February 1997 IFAD members agreed to a Fourth Replenishment of the Fund's resources. A total of \$460.2 million was mobilized in connection with the replenishment, of which \$40.6 million were complementary contributions from the Netherlands and Belgium. Of the total \$419.6 million pledged to the replenishment, List A will provide \$319.7 million, while List B will provide \$39.3 million, and List C, \$60.6 million. As part of the replenishment package, IFAD members also agreed to restructure the way IFAD is governed. Formerly, each category grouping (OECD, OPEC and developing countries) held six seats on the IFAD Executive Board. IFAD's new governance structure abolishes categories in favor of informal groupings of "Lists." List A now holds eight seats on the Executive Board, while List B holds four. List C (developing countries) retains six seats. Voting rights are more closely linked to financial support for IFAD, although special provision was made so that developing countries (other than OPEC countries) did not lose any voting rights as a result of the change.

The U.S. share in the Fourth Replenishment is \$30 million, or 6.5 percent of the total. Although the United States is the third largest donor to the replenishment, it remains by far IFAD's largest contributor in cumulative terms.

1. These totals would be 160 (membership) and 126 (developing countries), if "Yugoslavia" were included.

International Labor Organization (ILO)

The International Labor Organization, founded in 1919, is the only tripartite organization in the UN system. Based in Geneva, it has 174 member countries represented by governments, workers and employers. The ILO is the only international agency in which the private sector participates fully with government.

The ILO's mandate is to advance humane conditions of labor and social stability around the world by promoting democracy and human rights; employment and the alleviation of poverty; and equality and protection of working people. The ILO seeks to define common standards of decency applying to workers among nations involved in international trade. American workers and business can compete fairly if international labor standards help level the playing field. With the ILO's tripartite system, U.S. business and workers benefit by participating in the development of international labor standards that affect their operations.

As the government of one of 10 countries of "chief industrial importance," the U.S. Government has a permanent seat on the ILO's 56-member Governing Body. In addition, an American worker (from the AFL-CIO) and an American employer (from the U.S. Council for International Business) have each won election to seats on the Governing Body. They speak and vote independently of the U.S. Government.

Government, worker and employer delegations from the United States actively participated in Governing Body meetings in March and November, and in the 85th International Labor Conference in June. U.S. Delegations also participated in four sectoral meetings during 1997: New Technologies and Employment in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector; International Migration (by Workers); Iron and Steel Workforce of the Twenty-first Century; and Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling: Women in Management.

During 1997 financial and budgetary issues dominated much of the attention of the Governing Body and the June Conference. The chief U.S. Government budgetary objectives in 1997 in the ILO included reducing the ILO's budget for the 1998–1999 biennium and reducing the U.S. assessment rate to below 25 percent. Major substantive U.S. objectives were keeping up pressure on countries that violate worker rights and placement of a Declaration on Core Labor Standards with an attached follow-up mechanism on the agenda for consideration by the 1998 ILO Conference.

Progress toward these objectives was as follows:

- Despite substantial opposition, the ILO adopted a 1998–1999 budget that represented a 3.75 percent nominal decline in constant dollar terms. The June Conference declined to reduce the U.S. assessment

rate to below 25 percent but left open the possibility of a subsequent change should the United Nations take action to lower the ceiling below 25 percent. Budget priorities included the fight against child labor and revitalization of ILO standard setting activities. The United States supported the budget.

- Based on thorough study, the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association in 1997 highlighted serious abuses of trade union rights in Nigeria, Sudan, Indonesia, Cuba and Colombia. The ILO's Committee on Application of Standards cited labor abuses in Iran, Myanmar (Burma), Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and Swaziland, calling for special missions to Nigeria, Djibouti and North Korea. In each case, the United States strongly supported the consensus endorsing these steps.
- After considerable debate, the November Governing Body agreed to place consideration of the Declaration on Core Labor Standards and Follow-up Mechanism on the agenda of the 1998 Conference. The United States strongly backed the consensus authorizing this effort.

The United States sees the ILO as an important vehicle with which to highlight and attack child labor, a major U.S. priority. For instance, ILO programs in Bangladesh and Pakistan are removing children from industries and placing them in schools and rehabilitation centers. An ILO program in Brazil removes children from shoe factories. In some cases, these actions eliminated unfair competition to American workers from low cost exports produced by children. Other ILO child labor programs will withdraw children from such hazardous work in Latin America as harvesting flowers sprayed with pesticides.

Meanwhile, major meetings attended by U.S. Delegations in the Netherlands, Norway and Colombia—organized in close cooperation with the ILO—focused in 1997 on strategies to eradicate extreme forms of child labor such as slavery, debt bondage, pornography, narcotics trafficking/production, prostitution and other forms of dangerous work. The ILO is aiming to adopt a major new ILO convention on extreme forms of child labor in 1999. The United States strongly endorses this effort.

In the context of the Asian financial crisis in late 1997, ILO efforts to advise and assist the IMF and World Bank on inclusion of social safety nets and emergency public works and job creation programs support U.S. objectives. The ILO has also helped Asian states hit by the crisis to establish programs and systems to create jobs, to begin to retrain workers who have lost their jobs, and to engage in tripartite consultations on structural adjustment reforms involving labor law.

In 1997 the ILO adopted a new international convention on employment agencies regarding their operation, aimed at increasing the efficiency of labor markets and protecting job seekers using their services. The

United States strongly supported the convention; the vote was 347 (U.S.) to 5, with 30 abstentions. The ILO also adopted an amendment to its constitution to allow its June Conference by a two-thirds vote to abrogate a convention that is obsolete. Meanwhile, the ILO's Governing Body has identified a number of conventions for revision, consolidation or abrogation. The United States supports this reform process because it frees resources that can be devoted to monitoring compliance.

The U.S. assessment for calendar year 1997 was 84,028,000 Swiss francs, or approximately \$60 million.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

IMO membership increased in 1997 to 155 states with the acceptance of Mongolia and Samoa. In July 1997 the People's Republic of China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong. As of that date Hong Kong, home of a major shipping registry, became a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and continues to be an associate member of IMO with the name of "Hong Kong, China." Macao is also an associate member. All members and associate members may participate in the IMO's biennial Assembly. The 20th IMO Assembly was held November 17–27, 1997.

The IMO's principal objectives are to foster cooperation among governments on technical matters affecting international shipping, to achieve the highest practicable standards for maritime safety and to prevent marine pollution. The IMO also develops conventions and treaties concerning international shipping, facilitates international maritime affairs and provides technical assistance in maritime matters to developing countries. The IMO tracks UNCED and Kyoto climate change-related issues in the Marine Environment Protection Committee, one of the major work programs.

The 32-member IMO Council, of which the United States has always been a member, is responsible for all functions between the Assembly's biennial meetings. In 1997 the Council met in regular session in June, and both before and after the 20th Assembly. The Council sessions primarily focused on issues of programming and budgeting, management, technical cooperation and draft resolutions to be forwarded to the 20th Assembly for approval. Specifically, the Council recommended adoption of a zero nominal growth budget for 1998–1999, the adoption of a program-based IMO Secretariat work program (where the budget clearly reflects the costs associated with detailed elements of the IMO's work program and priorities), and a renewal of the Secretary General's contract for another 4 years, until December 31, 2001. All these recommendations were approved by the Assembly. The United States also suggested that the IMO Secretariat present a zero nominal growth budget for its 2000–2001 fiscal year. After

an absence of several years, Liberia, with the second largest registered shipping tonnage, was reelected to the Council.

In 1997 the United States played a key role in the technical accomplishments of the IMO, which included: adoption of amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to improve maritime safety; adoption of amendments to the International Convention of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) to establish minimum training requirements for personnel serving on passenger ships; convening of an international conference to adopt a new Protocol to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) to reduce air pollution from ships; and convening of an international conference to adopt amendments to SOLAS to improve the safety of bulk carriers.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund, although not a member of the UN system, has a long-standing agreement to work in cooperation with the United Nations. The IMF provides a permanent forum for member states to review world economic trends, discuss the economic policies of individual members, promote international monetary cooperation, and enable the expansion and balanced growth of world trade.

The IMF also provides technical advice to member states and offers financial support to those countries suffering balance of payments difficulties that are taking steps to correct those problems. The IMF has been especially active in recent years in helping former Soviet states make the transition from command to market economies. The IMF supported Mexico and Argentina after Mexico's financial crisis of 1994–1995. In 1997 Fund members began implementing a debt relief initiative, which will reduce to sustainable levels the debt burden of those heavily indebted poor countries that have a track record of sound economic management. The IMF also has led the international response to the Asian financial crisis, mobilizing over \$100 billion in multilateral and bilateral financing to restore market confidence in the affected countries and assist them in enacting sound economic reforms.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The principal objective of the ITU is the promotion of international cooperation for the use of telecommunications. Established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, the ITU now serves as a forum where governments and the private telecommunications sector coordinate the establishment and operation of telecommunication networks and services. Dealing with technical issues of standardization, the work of the ITU has important commercial consequences. At the end of 1997, there were 187

member countries, with no additions during the year. Plenipotentiary Conferences, to which all ITU members are invited, are held every 4 years. The next Plenipotentiary will be in Minneapolis in October 1998.

ITU Council

The 46-member ITU Council, which serves as the governing body of the Union between Plenipotentiary Conferences, held its annual meeting in Geneva June 18–27. The Council set the 1998–1999 biennial budget at 327.6 million Swiss francs (about 234 million U.S. dollars), a 1.6 percent decrease from the 1996–1997 budget. The U.S. contribution to the ITU budget is approximately 6 percent. Private sector contributions, from companies participating in the work of the ITU, comprise about 15 percent of the ITU budget.

World Radiocommunications Conference

The biennial World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) was held October 27–November 21 in Geneva. Issues covered by the WRC included continuation of the process of simplification of the Radio Regulations, allocation of additional radio spectrum for new commercial satellite systems, revision of the maritime mobile and aeronautical mobile regulations, and revision of the coordination procedures for high frequency broadcasting. This included the provision for digital service and changes to the coordination procedures for satellite systems to discourage hoarding satellite orbital slots. Of particular importance to the United States was the protection of the Global Positioning System (GPS) from efforts to obtain frequency allocation for a mobile satellite system that could cause interference with GPS aeronautical and maritime navigation systems.

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The United States has concluded that UNESCO has satisfactorily addressed the issues that led to U.S. withdrawal in December 1984. Nevertheless, budgetary constraints continue to impede U.S. entry. Accordingly, the United States pays no assessed contribution to UNESCO, but continued in 1997 to participate selectively in UNESCO programs that directly benefit U.S. national interests. These include:

- UNESCO's work to promote a free, independent and pluralistic press, particularly in emerging democracies;
- Numerous ocean research projects that enjoy strong support from the U.S. scientific community;
- The World Heritage Committee, which supports the 1972 World Heritage Convention, an initiative of the Nixon administration and today

the most widely accepted international conservation agreement;

- UNESCO education programs that seek to strengthen adult education worldwide; and
- UNESCO's successful efforts to finalize an international convention on mutual recognition of higher education degrees—work that directly benefits a multibillion dollar sector of the U.S. economy.

The United States was represented at UNESCO's 29th General Conference (October 21–November 13) by an Observer Delegation that included two public sector delegates appointed by the White House. Throughout 1997 the United States continued to encourage UNESCO's growing partnerships with the private sector and academic institutions in the United States, and believes these linkages to be valuable models for reform efforts elsewhere in the UN system.

The United States remained an active participant in 1997 on several key UNESCO subsidiary bodies that it had been instrumental in creating while still a member of UNESCO. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) provides a forum for the United States to engage directly scientists and governments in both developing and industrialized countries in cooperative global oceanographic research and marine operations and exchange of scientific data. The U.S. scientific community places particular priority on the IOC's Global Ocean Observing System. The United States provides leadership to the IOC through U.S. membership on its Executive Council and through the presence on the IOC staff of U.S. oceans experts. The value of U.S. cash and in-kind contributions to the IOC, a functionally autonomous body of UNESCO, totaled slightly over \$1,500,000 in 1997.

As an early promoter and signatory of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, the United States worked closely in 1997 with UNESCO's World Heritage Center in pursuit of U.S. international conservation goals. The United States is a member of the World Heritage Committee, which oversees the World Heritage Fund, and contributed approximately \$500,000 to the Fund in 1997. In an extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee in October 1997 the United States was elected to the Committee's 7-member Bureau for a 1-year term. The United States sought election to be in a better position to strengthen implementation of the 1972 convention, an agenda the U.S. Delegation advanced at the annual Committee meeting in Naples in December.

In 1997 numerous offices and agencies of the U.S. Government participated in UNESCO meetings, conferences and seminars, many of which dealt with aspects of international conventions and agreements implemented by UNESCO of which the United States is a current or potential signatory. The United States associated itself, at the 29th General Confer-

ence, with UNESCO's Declaration on the Human Genome, a text that strikes an important balance between protecting human dignity and defending freedom of scientific inquiry.

In April 1997 UNESCO's Director General gave the keynote address at a U.S.-supported meeting on civic education at the White House conference center.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

The UPU exists to facilitate international communications through the efficient operation of the postal services across borders. The United States has been a member of the UPU since its founding (as the General Postal Union) in 1874. There are now 189 members with no changes to membership during 1997. The UPU Congress meets every 5 years to review and revise its conventions, regulations and other agreements. The next Congress will be held in Beijing in 1999.

Council of Administration. The Council of Administration, responsible for questions of governmental policy and administration, met October 15–24 in Bern and adopted a 1998 budget of 35.7 million Swiss francs (25.5 million dollars), a slight reduction in nominal growth levels. The United States supported the reduced budget. The U.S. share of the budget remains approximately 6 percent. A strategic program budget is now in its third year, running in parallel with a traditional budget. It is slated to replace the traditional budget in the future. UPU members were generally satisfied with the 1997 budget presentation, but further refinement is under way to make it a more effective tool for managing and prioritizing the Union's activities.

Postal Operations Council. The Postal Operations Council and working parties met several times during 1997 at UPU Headquarters in Bern, Switzerland. Created by the 1994 Seoul Congress, the Council is responsible for operational and commercial questions. The United States continued its leadership of the cost study of the financially significant terminal dues system used by postal administrations to reimburse each other for mail delivery.

High-Level Meeting. A high-level strategy meeting for senior postal officials was held in Geneva October 13 and 14. Ministers and other officials from UPU member states discussed terminal dues policy, technical assistance to developing countries, access to bulk mail terminal dues by private operators, developments in telecommunications and other topics of importance to the international postal system.

World Bank Group

The World Bank Group is composed of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, established in 1945), Interna-

tional Development Association (IDA, established in 1960), International Finance Corporation (IFC, established in 1956) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA, established in 1988). From their creation through June 30, 1997, the IBRD and IDA have provided more than \$396 billion in loans, either at near-commercial terms (IBRD) or at concessional terms (IDA), for development projects and economic policies. During the Bank Group's fiscal year 1997, which ended June 30, 180 nations were members of the IBRD, 159 belong to the IDA, 172 were members of the IFC and 141 were members of MIGA. The United States is the largest contributor to the World Bank Group, with 17.52 percent of the shares in the IBRD, 15.29 percent of IDA's votes (24.1 percent of total subscriptions and contributions), 23.93 percent of the IFC's capital and 20.8 percent of MIGA's shares on June 30.

The World Bank works with specialized UN agencies in a wide variety of activities and issues, such as population, health and education. For example, in 1997, the World Bank provided vital follow-up to commitments stemming from the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women and Development and the 1996 Habitat II Conference. The World Bank cosponsors—with, among others, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UN Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP)—the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which supports a network of 16 international agricultural research centers. Along with UNDP, the Bank cosponsors the World Health Organization's Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), which combats six major tropical diseases. Responsibility for implementing the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a \$500 million portfolio of projects dealing with biodiversity, climate change, ozone-depleting substances and international waters, is shared among the World Bank, the UNDP and UNEP.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization, based in Geneva, was established in 1948 with the objective of "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health."

U.S. Representatives participated in meetings of the World Health Assembly, WHO Executive Board, regional committees for the Americas, Western Pacific, and Europe, and the 16-member Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. U.S. officials also participated in meetings of the management committees of WHO's major voluntarily funded programs, and of the UN Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which is cosponsored by WHO and five other agencies. Within the WHO staff, there were more American citizens than any other nationality in professional posts. Senior posts occupied by Americans

included those of Assistant Director General for Communicable Diseases, Legal Counsel, Director of Internal Audit and Oversight, Senior Advisor on Health Policy in Development, Director of the Division of Emerging and other Communicable Diseases, and Director of the Division of Personnel.

A major issue at WHO during 1997 was the U.S. effort to obtain a reduction of the budget as well as to reduce the level of the U.S. assessment rate. Although the United States did not get agreement on its goal of a 5 percent reduction in the 1998–1999 budget, below the level of the 1996–1997 budget, the pressure on WHO staff and on the World Health Assembly to economize ultimately led to a decision for a no-growth budget, at exactly the same level as the budget for the previous biennium. For 1998–1999, the budget level was set at \$842,654,000—second largest regular budget in the UN system, after that of the United Nations itself—and the U.S. assessment was set at \$108,371,575 in each year of the biennium.

Although it was technically possible for the World Health Assembly to change the assessment scale, it was agreed by all parties that no action should be taken on this issue prior to action on assessments by the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, the U.S. Delegation to the World Health Assembly was able to get agreement that the assessment scale for 1998–1999 could be reconsidered in May 1998 if the UN General Assembly had taken action to change assessments.

On all of the financial issues, the U.S. Delegation encountered resistance to its efforts because of the uncertainty of when and how much the United States would pay—both in current-year assessments and in arrears from prior years. WHO records showed that, at the end of 1997, U.S. arrears amounted to \$39.8 million. Although no agreement was reached between the Administration and the Congress regarding the payment of arrears, the United States in December paid its 1997 assessment to WHO virtually in full.

On related issues, the United States and others continued efforts to bring about budget and administrative reform in WHO. The Executive Board had established a working group to study potential changes in the WHO Constitution, and this group was also assigned the task of studying WHO's regional arrangements, the system by which more than two-thirds of WHO's regular budget resources are distributed through the six regional offices. Issues that were considered included the possible reallocation of resources among the six regional groups and the terms of service of the regional directors. WHO staff also continued to revise the basic "health for all" policy of the organization, for possible adoption of a new declaration or charter in May 1998 on the occasion of WHO's 50th anniversary assembly.

WHO's Director General, Hiroshi Nakajima of Japan, announced at the May 1997 Assembly that he would not seek election to a third term. He had first been elected in 1988 after serving for 10 years as director of WHO's Western Pacific regional office. In mid-1997, following revised procedures established by the Executive Board, WHO announced to all member states that the Board in January 1998 would nominate one person to fill the post of Director General, and invited nominations from all member states. By the time of the deadline, seven individuals had been nominated for WHO's senior post. At the end of the year, the United States announced to other WHO member states that its preferred candidate for election to this post was Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway. (Dr. Brundtland in fact was nominated for this post by the Board in January 1998, for formal election by the May 1998 World Health Assembly.)

The Assembly, *inter alia*, gave enthusiastic support to WHO's 1997 "World Health Report," which dealt with cancer and other chronic diseases. It declared that the cloning of human beings is "ethically unacceptable and contrary to human integrity and morality." A series of resolutions on technical health subjects included recommendations that member states cease or severely cut back the use of DDT, give intensified attention to the public health impact of violence, address the issue of the sale of pharmaceuticals on the Internet and take efforts to control several communicable diseases. Strong support was voiced for WHO's polio eradication efforts, its work to address emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, and its highly regarded normative functions, including maintaining systems for the international classification of diseases and for standards of biological products. Following up a resolution from the 1996 Assembly, WHO staff during the year began discussions on the content of a new international framework convention on the control of tobacco. U.S. Government representatives participated in these discussions.

The Assembly in May ratified WHO's signature on the agreement of a new International Vaccine Institute, based in the Republic of Korea. It rejected, by a vote of 128 to 19, with 5 (U.S.) abstentions, an effort by Taiwan to be approved for official observer status at WHO, and it adopted, by a vote of 93 to 4 (U.S.), with 4 abstentions, a resolution put forward by Palestine and Arab states that was highly critical of Israel. The United States, in the interests of economy, spoke strongly to oppose the construction of a new \$10 million regional office building for WHO in Cairo, Egypt. The Government of Egypt said it was donating valuable land for the new building. No other country opposed the project, and it was approved.

Pan American Health Organization

The Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), composed of representatives of all 38 PAHO member states, met in Washington in September. U.S. officials were active in that meeting as well as in meetings of the PAHO Executive Committee and its Subcommittee on Planning and Programming. The United States was elected to fill the post of vice president of the Executive Committee.

The United States, which pays 59.44 percent of the PAHO regular budget, asked PAHO staff and member states to adopt a budget for 1998–1999 that was 5 percent below the budget of 1996–1997. PAHO, however, sought an increase in the budget. In the end, following the World Health Assembly's adoption of a zero nominal growth budget for WHO, the Directing Council did the same for PAHO. The 1998–1999 budget was set at \$168,578,000, exactly the same as the 1996–1997 budget. U.S. assessments in each year of the biennium were set at \$49,927,762. PAHO records showed that, at the end of 1997, U.S. arrears in payments amounted to \$14.5 million.

The Directing Council adopted resolutions on, *inter alia*, AIDS, oral health, nutrition, hantavirus, adolescent health and health emergency preparedness for disasters caused by “El Nino.” There was renewed praise for PAHO's work in eradicating polio in the Western Hemisphere, the first region in the world to achieve this goal. Members also expressed appreciation for PAHO's efforts to promote health reform in newly elected democratic governments in the region, including work to promote national goal-setting in health. U.S. and Mexican Delegations also welcomed PAHO's cooperation with them in improving health conditions in the U.S.-Mexico border area.

International Agency for Research on Cancer

The 16-member Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a subsidiary of WHO, met at IARC Headquarters in Lyon, France. The U.S. Delegation again praised the work of IARC Director Paul Kleihues (Germany) for reforms achieved in restructuring the agency and improving IARC's reputation within strict budgetary limitations. It also praised IARC's high-quality scientific programs.

The U.S. Delegation to the Governing Council urged adoption of a budget for 1998–1999 that was lower than the one for 1996–1997, and was successful in getting a reduction (0.34 percent). The new IARC budget was set at \$36,880,665 for the biennium. The U.S. assessment (9.17 percent of the total) was set at \$1,665,526 in 1998 and \$1,718,275 in 1999. During the year, the United States paid \$1,428,007 of its 1997 assessment of \$1,751,738. IARC records showed that, at the end of 1997, U.S. arrearages amounted to \$352,126.

UNAIDS

The Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS, known as UNAIDS, began formal operations on January 1, 1996. The program is cosponsored by WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO and the World Bank. The 22-member Program Coordinating Board, meeting in April, approved a budget of \$120 million for 1998–1999. The U.S. Agency for International Development was the largest national contributor to the program in 1997. On World AIDS Day, December 1, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that support for UNAIDS, as well as for WHO and the World Bank, was critical in the global fight against this disease. She said she was determined to work with the Congress to sustain that support.

At year's end, program director Peter Piot (Belgium) said that new estimates showed that HIV infection was far more common than previously thought. UNAIDS and WHO had estimated that more than 30 million people were living with HIV infection at the end of 1997, or one in every 100 adults in the sexually active ages of 15 to 49 worldwide. He said that an estimated 2.3 million people died of AIDS during 1997, of which 46 percent were women and 460,000 were children. Piot said that UNAIDS by year's end had set up theme groups in 120 countries to serve as the coordination mechanism for HIV/AIDS activities.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

WIPO was established by a convention that entered into force in 1970. One of the 16 specialized agencies of the United Nations, WIPO is responsible for promoting the protection of intellectual property (copyrights, patents and trademarks) through cooperation among states; administration of Unions founded on the basis of multilateral intellectual property (IP) treaties; and providing IP-related technical assistance to foster the development and growth of rational IP systems among WIPO members.

Administrative Organization

There are 158 signatories to the WIPO Convention. WIPO administers 17 intergovernmental “unions” or treaties, each founded on a multilateral treaty. The two principal treaties are the Paris and Berne Conventions (140 and 119 signatories, respectively), consolidated in 1893 under the name of the United International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIRPI). Although BIRPI still has a legal existence for states that are members of one of the Unions but not of WIPO, in practice it has been supplanted by the International Bureau. The International Bureau operates under the direction of WIPO member states through a General Assembly that meets in ordinary session every second year. The principal administrative organs of the Paris and Berne Unions are the assemblies of each

union, from which all the member states elect executive committees. The combination of these two committees constitutes WIPO's Coordination Committee. It meets annually and is entrusted with the normal tasks of such a governing body, including the review and implementation of WIPO's biennial program and budget.

Member states contribute to six of the WIPO unions, known as the "Program Unions." WIPO's 1996–1997 biennial gross assessed budget for the Program Unions is approximately \$17.5 million. The U.S. share is approximately 6.5 percent of the total assessment. Because of the installation of a new Director General in late 1997, consideration of the 1998–1999 biennial budget, which normally would have occurred at the September 1997 Governing Bodies meeting, was delayed until March 1998 to give the new Director General time to develop his own program and budget for presentation to the members.

WIPO Governing Bodies

The meeting of the Governing Bodies of WIPO and the Unions Administered by WIPO was held September 22–October 1. Convened during the Governing Bodies meeting, the WIPO General Assembly appointed a new Director General, Kamil Idris of Sudan, to succeed Arpad Bogsch, who had served as WIPO Director General for more than 2 decades.

WIPO-WTO Cooperation

On January 1, 1996, an agreement between WIPO and the World Trade Organization (WTO) entered into force. It provides for cooperation concerning implementation of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, namely, notification of laws and regulations, communication of emblems of states and international intergovernmental organizations under Article 6 of the Paris Convention, as well as legal-technical assistance and technical cooperation in favor of developing countries relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Membership in WMO now consists of 179 states and 6 member territories. The 49th session of the Executive Council met in June 1997. The Council agreed to continue to monitor the implementation of its new policy on the exchange of meteorological data and analysis products developed by member states. (Resolution 40, 12th Congress.) The policy provides protection of key U.S. interests in the open and free exchange of meteorological and hydrological data for forecasting, research and other noncommercial uses, and provides guidelines to protect the intellectual property rights of those who provide analyses based on such data.

Secretary General G.O.P. Obasi (Nigeria) announced that he intended to present himself as a candidate for reelection to a fifth term as WMO Secretary General when his current term expires in December 1999. Ambassador Manuel Dengo (Costa Rica) also announced in 1997 his candidacy for this Secretary General position.

The United States continued its financial support for the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Program (VCP), which provides training and equipment to help developing countries participate in WMO programs, particularly the World Weather Watch (WWW).

World Trade Organization (WTO)

WTO is an autonomous international organization of countries and independent customs territories that adhere to a system of multilateral trade agreements covering trade in goods and services. As the legal and institutional foundation of the multilateral trading system, the WTO serves as a forum for negotiations to liberalize the trading system and progressively open markets, oversees and enforces rules of conduct of trade relations, and provides a mechanism for settling disputes.

The WTO was formally established on January 1, 1995, as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1947 (GATT). It encompasses the preexisting GATT structure, covering trade in goods, and extends it to trade in services and protection of intellectual property. The WTO provides specific disciplines in a number of areas, such as agriculture, textiles and trade-related investment measures. Generally, members must apply certain basic principles, such as nondiscrimination and transparency, to trade with other members.

In 1997 the WTO held the High-Level Meeting on Technical Assistance for the Least Developed Countries. At its 1996 meeting in Singapore, WTO Ministers adopted the WTO Plan of Action for the Least-Developed Countries (LLDCs), which envisioned closer cooperation between the WTO and other multilateral agencies assisting least-developed countries to improve their overall capacity to respond to the challenges and opportunities offered by the international trading system. The high-level meeting was organized by the WTO Secretariat, with the active participation of the secretariats of UNCTAD, the International Trade Center (ITC), the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the staffs of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. At that conference, these six “core” intergovernmental organizations sought to foster an integrated approach to trade-related technical assistance activities for the LLDCs. The high-level meeting addressed trade-related technical assistance, training, and capacity building, and enhanced market access for LLDCs. As a part of the process, LLDCs provided comprehensive assessments of their needs for trade-related technical assistance. A significant

United States Participation in the United Nations

outcome of the meeting was an integrated plan for trade-related technical assistance for each participating LLDC. The six core agencies and other relevant technical assistance providers continue to work together to respond to the technical assistance needs of the LLDCs.